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DATE: 4/27/76



# ADVISORY CIRCULAR

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

**SUBJECT: THE ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNSELOR PROGRAM**

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1. PURPOSE. This advisory circular provides information to acquaint the general aviation community with the Accident Prevention Counselor Program and the ways the accident prevention counselor force enhances aviation safety.
  2. INTRODUCTION.
    - a. The Federal Aviation Administration established the General Aviation Accident Prevention Program on the premise that accident rates could be reduced by encouraging airmen to improve their attitudes toward safety, by refreshing their aeronautical knowledge, and by improving their aeronautical skills. The program encourages total involvement of the general aviation community.
    - b. Representatives of all segments of the aviation industry are encouraged to participate with the FAA in the conduct of workshops and seminars which broaden and refresh the technical knowledge of airmen. There are accident prevention specialists assigned to each Flight Standards and General Aviation District Office to organize Accident Prevention Program activities. In addition, there are over 3,000 volunteer airmen serving as accident prevention counselors, sharing their technical expertise and professional knowledge with the general aviation community.
  3. THE ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNSELOR. Accident prevention counselors are private individuals dedicated to the promotion of aviation safety. They voluntarily serve as assistants to the FAA accident prevention specialist in performing accident prevention functions in their community. Accident prevention counselors act as advisors to the aviation community in support of aviation safety, but without designated regulatory authority. Counselors are selected for their interest in aviation safety, their professional knowledge, and their personal reputation in the general aviation community.
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4. ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNSELOR ACTIVITIES. Accident Prevention Counselors assist the FAA in the promotion of aviation safety by:
  - a. Providing information and guidance on local flying conditions to transient pilots.
  - b. Providing counsel for airmen who may have exhibited unsafe acts in the air or on the ground.
  - c. Providing assistance to pilots, aircraft owners, and mechanics on matters pertaining to proper maintenance of aircraft and avionics equipment.
  - d. Counseling airmen following incidents requiring flight assistance from personnel in Air Traffic Control.
  - e. Assisting FAA in transmitting safety information to pilots, aircraft owners, maintenance facilities, and mechanics.
  - f. Conducting proficiency flights (when appropriately rated).
  - g. Providing FAA information and assistance in establishing local aviation safety programs.
  - h. Notifying the appropriate authorities of the need for corrective action when hazardous conditions affecting safe flight or ground operations are observed.
  - i. Organizing and participating in safety meetings, workshops, and seminars.
5. HOW TO CONTACT A COUNSELOR. Accident prevention counselors are usually associated with a fixed base operation, flying club or local organization having a maintenance or flight operation. Usually the airport manager, the FAA Flight Service Stations (FSS), or Fixed Base Operator (F.B.O.), will have a list of accident prevention counselors and their phone numbers available. All Flight Standards and General Aviation District Offices have a list of the counselors serving the district.
6. SUMMARY.
  - a. Accident prevention counselors are voluntary supporters of the General Aviation Accident Prevention Program, serving their community by providing advice and counsel to airmen. They organize and participate in safety meetings, workshops, seminars, and other safety programs, initiate action to correct conditions that may be hazardous to aircraft in flight or on the ground, and counsel transient airmen.

- b. Before flying over unfamiliar territory, such as mountainous terrain or desert areas, it is advisable for transient pilots to consult with local counselors. They will be familiar with the more desirable routes, the wind and weather conditions, and the service and emergency landing areas that are available along the way. They can also offer advice on the type of emergency equipment you should be carrying. In other words, the accident prevention counselor is a good person to know.

  
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